POL 14 VIETS

Department of State TELEGRAM

(1045)

Saigon 5728 9-12-67

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,NSAE 00,L 03,INR 07,P 04,
CIA 04,DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,SAL 01,SAH 03,ACDA 17,AID 30,RSR 01,
/156 W

R 121000Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6671
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK RWWQ
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2510
AMCONSUL DANANG 947

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5728

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 5646

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH PRO-TRAN VAN HUONG SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE DEPUTIES [ ] ALL THREE WERE IN RELATIVELY GOOD FRAME OF MIND, HAD FEW COMPLAINTS ABOUT CONDUCT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, AND APPEARED TO BE LOOKING FORWARD TO CAMPAIGN FOR LOWER HOUSE FOR WHICH ALL THREE HAVE FILES.

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2. ON SUBJECT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION [ ] OBSERVED THAT GENERALLY VOTE COUM HAD BEEN HONEST. (HE

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CITED GIA DINH PROVINCE AS EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE AND MAINTAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF BLATANT RIGGING THERE.) AS FOR UPPER HOUSE RACE, ALL THREE DEPUTIES EXPRESSED DOUBTS AS TO HONESTY OF OUTCOME AND SAID THAT DELAY IN ANNOUNCING OFFICIAL RESULTS WAS MAJOR CAUSE FOR SUSPICION. LATER IN CONVERSATION [ ] SPECULATED THAT THIEU WOULD "CONTROL" CLOSE TO 50 SENATORS IN NEW UPPER HOUSE.

3. ASKED ABOUT VALIDATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS, ALL THREE DEPUTIES REMARKED THAT A NUMBER OF LEADING MEMBERS OF PRO-GVN DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE BLOC HAVE TEMPORARILY BECOME "OPPOSITIONISTS". BLOC LEADER LE PHUOC SANG AND HIS COLLEAGUE COL DAM VAN QUY, THEY MAINTAINED, HAVE BEEN SHOWING OTHER DEPUTIES "EVIDENCE" OF ELECTION FRAUD AND TAKING LINE THAT BOTH PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS WERE RIGGED. [ ] NOTED IRONY OF OPPOSITIONISTS STAND PRESENTL BEING TAKEN BY LE PHUOC SANG AND STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE WOULD OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO INVALIDATE THIEU'S ELECTION. IN REPLY TO

QUESTION, [ ] SAID SANG'S ATTITUDE EXPLAINED BY PIQUE OVER HIS DEFEAT IN UPPER HOUSE RACE BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SAY AT THIS STAGE WHETHER SANG'S PRESENT ATTITUDE WOULD PERSIST OR HOW IT IS AFFECTING OTHER DEPUTIES IN HIS BLOC.

4. ALL THREE DEPUTIES GAVE IMPRESSION OF LOOKING FORWARD TO LOWER HOUSE CAMPAIGN. [ ] GAVE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUES HE HAS EMPLOYED IN HIS SAIGON CONTITUENCY. HE SAID HE HAD ALREADY BEEN CAMPAIGNING FOR MORE THAN A MONTH BUT WAS RELUCTANT TO PREDICT HIS CHANCES BECAUSE OF LARGE FIELD OF CANDIDATES.

5. [ ] HAD SOME VERY KONG WORDS TO SAY FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT THIEU, CLAIMING THAT THIEU HAD GOOD IMAGE WITH THE POPULATION. [ ] WHO IS USUALLY

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NOT SO CHARITABLE, WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT THIEU WAS "VERY POPULAR".

6. COMMENT: (A) CONVERSATION WITH THESE SOUTHERN RENAISSANCE DEPUTIES TENDS TO CONFIRM OUR EARLIER IMPRESSION THAT HUONG CAMP NOT PLANNING TO CHALLENGE VALIDITY OF ELECTION. THEIR REMARKS, HOWEVER, ALSO POINT UP

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 5728 C O N F I D E N T I A L
UNCERTAINTY OVER COURSE OF ACTION PLANNED BY LEADING DEMOCRATIC-ALLIANCE DEPUTIES.

GP-3. BUNKER

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